REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 17-20 and 23 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 30-32 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein. Entry is thus requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Topper, U.S. Patent No. 5,268,895, in view of Brendes et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0049730. Claims 30-32 are canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signaling network processing unit performs functions of a message transfer part (MTP) protocol, and the cross-routing controlling unit performs functions of a MTP user part protocol for the signaling network processing unit, among No. 7 protocols.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cross-routing controlling unit routes the signaling message to the signaling network processing unit of a destination signaling network in accordance with the status information of the signaling point transmitted from each signaling network processing unit.

7-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A system for interworking heterogeneous No. 7 signaling networks, comprising:

first and second signal network processing units, each coupled to a corresponding heterogeneous No. 7 signaling network; and

a cross-routing control unit coupled to each of the signal networking processing units, wherein the cross-routing control unit stores network management information received from the first and second signal network processing units and performs cross-routing of a signaling message from the first signal network processing unit to the second signal network processing unit, wherein each of the first and second signal network processing units comprises:

route the signaling message transmitted from the cross-routing controlling unit to a corresponding destination signaling network, and wherein the signaling message handling unit comprises:

a message discrimination unit to determine whether the destination signaling point of the signaling message is a current signaling point;

a message distribution unit to distribute the signaling message to a corresponding local message transfer part (MTP) user part in the current signaling point, if the destination signaling point of the signaling message is the current signaling point; and

a message routing unit to request that the signaling message be cross-routed to a heterogeneous signaling network, if the destination signaling point of the signaling message is not the current signaling point and does not exist in the corresponding current signaling network.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message routing unit routes the signaling message to the corresponding signaling network if it receives the signaling message routed by the cross-routing unit, and if the destination signaling point of the received signaling message is contained in the corresponding signaling network and is accessible, and otherwise the message routing unit routes the signaling message to the corresponding destination signaling point.